

Terrorism: Is Utah Prepared?

Utah is better prepared to deal with an unlikely terrorist attack than most other states in the nation. While several states are expanding their training programs for counter-terrorism, Utah has gone a step further. In 1999, Governor Michael Leavitt created the Utah Center for Domestic Preparedness by executive order and designated the Division of



Emergency Services and Homeland Security to serve as the central coordinating office for domestic preparedness and implementation of weapons of mass destruction programs in the state.

Special resources have also been made available to Utah from the federal government through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. These resources include more than \$50 million in funding, equipment and training resources to deal with the unlikely event of a chemical weapon incident at Deseret Chemical Depot in Tooele County.

While the government can do much to protect people from a terrorist act, individuals and families must take responsibility to prepare themselves. Create a 72-hour kit, prepare disaster plans and contact local emergency managers in your area for more information.

For more information contact:



Utah Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security
1110 State Office Building
P.O. Box 141710
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1710
Phone: 801.538.3400
Fax: 801.538.3770
<http://des.utah.gov>

TERRORISM

What You Can Do To Prepare



Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion or ransom. Terrorists often use threats to create fear among the public, to try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism, and to get immediate publicity for their causes.

Utah Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

<http://des.utah.gov>

A major disaster or terrorism-related incident can happen quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood, or confine you to your home or work place. What would you do if basic services -- water, gas, electricity or telephones -- were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after an incident, but they cannot reach everyone right away. Families can, and do cope by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps listed here to create your family disaster plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

Find Out What Could Happen to You

- Contact the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security and American Red Cross.
- Ask about animal care after the disaster. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.
- Determine who in your neighborhood may require additional assistance in an emergency.
- Next, find out about the disaster plans at your workplace, your children's school or daycare center and other places where your family spends time.

Create a Disaster Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team. Pick two places to meet in case you are separated: right outside your home in case of a fire or outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home. Everyone must know the addresses and phone numbers.

Ask an out-of-state friend to be your family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call out of the affected area. Other family members should call this contact person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know the contact phone numbers.

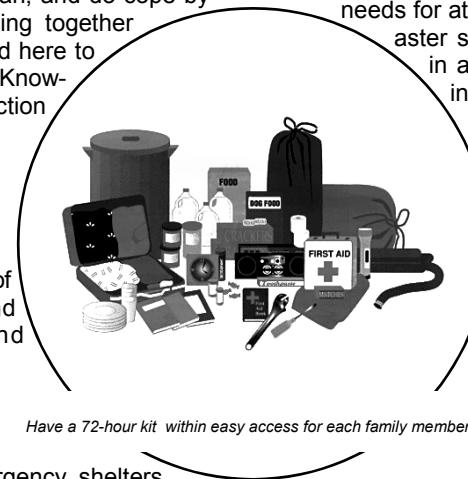
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or covered trash containers.

Include:

- A three-day supply of non-perishable food and water (one gallon per person per day).
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members, such as medication, special diet needs, etc.
- An extra pair of glasses or contacts.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Store backup copies in a safe location outside of your home.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere --at work -- at school -- or in the car. How will you find each other? How will you know if your children are safe? Work as a family to answer these questions and make sure every family member knows the answers.



About Terrorism:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) categorizes terrorism in the United States as one of two types — **domestic terrorism** or **international terrorism**.

Domestic terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are directed at elements of our government or population without foreign direction.

International terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are foreign-based and/or directed by countries or groups outside the United States or whose activities transcend national boundaries.

1. Most terrorist incidents in the United States have been bombing attacks, involving detonated and un-detonated explosive devices, tear gas and pipe and firebombs.
2. The effects of terrorism can vary significantly from loss

of life and injuries to property damage and disruptions in services such as electricity, water supply, public transportation and communications.

3. One way the U.S. government attempts to reduce our vulnerability to terrorist incidents is to increase security at airports and other public facilities. The government also works with other countries to limit the sources of support for terrorism.

Bomb Threats:

If you receive a bomb threat, get as much information from the caller as possible. Keep the caller on the line and record everything that is said. Notify the police and the building management. After you've been notified of a bomb threat, do not touch any suspicious packages. Clear the area around the suspicious package and notify the police immediately. In evacuating a building, avoid standing in front of windows or other potentially hazardous areas. Do not restrict sidewalk or streets.

Learn more about preparing for disasters of all types at www.des.utah.gov

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS:

Biological agents are infectious microbes or toxins used to produce illness or death in people, animals or plants. Terrorists may use biological agents to contaminate food or water because they are extremely difficult to detect.

Weapons of Mass Destruction:

Any weapon or device that is intended, or has the capability to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic poisonous chemicals or their precursors; a disease organism, or radiation or radioactivity.

Chemical agents kill or incapacitate people, destroy livestock or ravage crops. Some chemical agents are odorless, tasteless and difficult to detect. They can have an immediate effect (a few seconds to a few minutes) or a delayed effect (several hours to several days).

Here in Utah, we are better prepared than

most other states to deal with the unlikely event of a chemical or biological incident. This is due to special resources provided through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). Those resources include:

- Extensive hazardous materials training and use of Personal Protective Equipment by first responders.
- Mobile and fixed decontamination capabilities.
- Specialized training and equipment for hospitals in Salt Lake, Utah, and Tooele counties, preparing them to treat chemical exposure.
- Planning and training with evacuation seminars and discussion of pertinent emergency management issues.

LEARN ABOUT THE NATURE OF TERRORISM:

Terrorists often choose targets that offer little danger to themselves, in areas with relatively easy public access. Foreign terrorists look for visible targets where they can avoid detection before or after an attack such as international airports, large cities, major international events, resorts, and high-profile landmarks. Learn about the different types of terrorist weapons including explosives, kidnappings, hijackings, arson, and shootings. Prepare to deal with a terrorist incident by adapting many of the same techniques used to prepare for other crises.

Be alert and aware of the surrounding area. The very nature of terrorism suggests that there may be little or no warning. Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended. Learn where emergency exits are located. Think ahead about how to evacuate a building, subway or congested public area in a hurry. Learn where staircases are located.

PREPARING FOR A BUILDING EXPLOSION:

The use of explosives by terrorists can result in collapsed buildings and fires. People who live or work in a multi-level building can do the following:

BEFORE :

Review and practice emergency evacuation procedures. Know where fire exits are located. Know what hazardous materials are stored in your building and how to avoid contamination.

Keep fire extinguishers in working order. Know where they are located, and how to use them. Learn first aid. Contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross for additional information.

Keep the following items in a designated place on each floor of the building: Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, several flashlights and extra batteries, first aid kit and manual, several hard hats, fluorescent tape to rope off dangerous areas.

DURING :

During a building explosion, get out of the building as quickly and calmly as possible.

If items are falling off bookshelves or from the ceiling, get under a sturdy table or desk. If there is a fire, stay low to the floor and exit the building as quickly as possible.

Cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth. If lights go out, do not use an open flame.

When approaching a closed door, use the palm of your hand and forearm to feel the lower, middle and upper parts of the door. If it is not hot, brace yourself against the door and open it slowly. If it is hot to the touch, do **not** open the door--seek an alternate escape route. Do not use elevators.

Heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling. Stay below the smoke at all times.

AFTER :

If you are trapped in debris, use a flashlight. Do not use candles or matches that could ignite flammable gasses.

Stay in your immediate area so you don't kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.

Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort--shouting can cause a person to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

ASSISTING VICTIMS

Untrained persons should not attempt to rescue people who are inside a collapsed building. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive.

Returning to a building after a disaster:

Returning to a building after a disaster can be dangerous because of structural damage or electrical problems. Check the building before you enter. Carefully check outside for loose power lines, gas leaks, foundation cracks or other damage. Turn off the electricity. Enter carefully, and check the ceiling for signs of sagging. If you suspect a gas leak or smell gas, leave the building immediately and call the gas company .